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The Passport

Texas Conservation PassportSM News

Government Publications
Texas State Documents

March - May 1993

Conservation Passport Tours: Springtime

APR 08 1993

Birding Bonanza

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Springtime is when many Texans grab their binoculars and field guides and sally forth on birding expeditions. This spring, Texas Conservation Passport holders can go on expert-guided birding outings at 13 sites representing separate ecological regions and with widely divergent varieties of birds to enjoy.

Wherever you live in Texas, in fact, you probably are within easy driving distance of one or more tours. The sites range from coastal wetlands to the Big Bend, from the Rolling Plains of West Texas to East Texas' Post Oak Savannah.

Coastal area birders can sample a wealth of resident and migratory bird life in the marshes and bays of the Texas Coast. On **April 10 and 17**, you can visit **Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area** on Smith Point in Chambers County east of Houston to view neotropical birds that stop there

on their South American migration route.

Farther down the coast, enjoy an all-day spring migration birding tour at **Mad Island WMA** in Matagorda County on **April 24**. A similar outing is planned for **April 17** at **Guadalupe Delta WMA** in Calhoun County south of Victoria.

You can sample the Lower Rio Grande Valley's remarkable variety of birds on a tour at **Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park** near Brownsville on **March 10**, and on **March 17** a tour will be conducted nearby on units of the TPWD's **Las Palomas WMA**.

In the brush country of South Texas, the **Chaparral WMA** in Dimmit and LaSalle Counties harbors a variety of interesting birds. All-day "birding in the brush" tours are set for **May 22 and 23** at the area near Artesia Wells.

Desert bird species make

the drive to **Black Gap WMA** in Brewster County worthwhile. Wildlife scientists will demonstrate bird banding, conduct a desert bird seminar and host three birding tours, including one specifically for viewing the elusive peregrine falcon in the rugged Big Bend region of Texas.

Moving farther east, four separate bird banding demonstrations will be held, along with birding tours, at **Kickapoo Cavern State Natural Area** near Uvalde.

Tours there include a Montezuma quail slide show and calling demonstration on **April 3**, and bird banding observation and birding tours on **March 13, April 24 and May 8 and 22**.

In Central Texas, a birding tour is planned at **Lake Whitney State Park** on **April 25**. In East Texas you can enjoy viewing the bird life at one of the state's prettiest parks, **Fairfield Lake**, located in the post oak forest in Freestone County, where birding tours with slide shows are planned for **March 13 and April 10**. Just down the road from Fairfield is **Richland Creek WMA**, where a birding and bird banding program will be held on **March 27**.

Conservation Passport holders in the Dallas-Fort Worth area can find a nearby birding outing at **Cedar Creek Islands**, a group of islands in Cedar Creek Reservoir southeast of Dallas. The nesting waterbird colony tour will be conducted on **May 8**.

Just check the locator map and calendar elsewhere in this issue of *The Passport* for more details on how to participate in these interesting and educational outings.



Photo by Larry Ditto

■ Caracaras are one of the many species of birds seen at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park.

From the Director

If your family is like mine, getting out in the springtime to enjoy wildflowers and nesting birds is an annual treat not to be missed. In fact, vast fields of bluebonnets seem to characterize Texas as much as any other outdoor scene captured on film or canvas in our state. But if you'll notice in this edition of *The Passport*, there's another, more offbeat, spring activity that's quite different from watching and photographing birds and flowers.

Down at **Bastrop State Park**, herpetologist Andy Price will host several nighttime outings that will allow you to get a look at the unique mating rituals of the endangered Houston toad. The diminutive toads, which are found only in the Lost Pines region of Bastrop County and in a small colony in Burleson County, once were quite common in much of Southeast Texas.

Listening to the male toads' high-pitched serenade may strike a sympathetic chord to those of us who hope the species can survive. Their precarious situation demonstrates how important it is for us to strive for protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats all across Texas.

I hope you have a wonderful spring and summer season in the Texas outdoors.

Andy Sansom
Executive Director

How to use this Newsletter

Starting on page 2 you will find a calendar of Conservation Passport activities listed in chronological order. When you see an interesting activity that fits your schedule, turn to the map on the centerfold to determine its general location. Once you find the area, consult the accompanying listing for information on how to get there. **Most of the activities require advance reservations, and before visiting any area it's a good idea to call ahead** for local weather conditions or other factors that might affect your outing. Telephone numbers are found in the calendar.

Calendar of Texas Conservation Passport Activities

Please note:

- These interpretive tours require one Conservation Passport per person age 17 and over.
- All activities require **reservations** unless noted otherwise.
- Most activities have a **limit on group size**.
- For **reservations** and information, call the phone number listed with the activity. For WMAs, the best time to catch the biologist in the office is on a weekday between 8 to 9 a.m. and 12 to 1 p.m.
- For site location information, see the "Site Location Index." Sites are listed in alphabetical order.
- Abbreviations:
SP= State Park
SHP= State Historical Park
SNA= State Natural Area
WMA= Wildlife Management Area



Aquatic Ecology/
Fishing



Bat Observation



Bird watching



Bus Tour



Cultural Tour



Geological History Tour



Habitat Restoration



Horseback Tour



Mountain Bike Ride



Nature Tour (Walking)



Photography Tour



Pool Day



Reptile/Amphibian
Observation



Waterfowl Tour



Wildflower/
Native plant Tour



Wildlife Tour

March

Mar. 2: Bastrop SP, nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101

Mar. 2: Fulton Mansion SHP, the bounty of the sea: from the boat to the table, guide Aransas Co. marine agent R. Tillman, noon-6 p.m., additional fee, 512-729-0386

Mar. 3: Lake Livingston SP, fishing seminar, guide biologist M. Howell, 8 a.m.-12 noon, no reservations, 409-365-2201

Mar. 3: Las Palomas WMA & Lower Rio Grande NWR, wildlife corridor slide show and tour, guide area manager G. Waggerman, 8 a.m.-noon, 210-383-8982

Mar. 4: Lubbock Lake Landmark SHP, photography workshop focusing on close-up shots, guide park manager S. Angulo, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., 806-765-0737

Mar. 5: Kerr WMA, birding tour focusing on endangered species, guide wildlife technician T. Schumann, 8 a.m.-12 noon, 210-238-4483

Mar. 5: U.T. Coastal Studies Lab, marine life in South Texas: slide show & tour, guide fisheries biologist T. Warren, 10 a.m.-12 noon, 210-350-4490

Mar. 6: Bastrop SP, nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101

Mar. 6: Big Bend Ranch SNA, Big Bend Ranch bus tour with chuck wagon lunch, guide exhibits technician D. Alloway, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., additional fee, 915-229-3613

Mar. 6: Honey Creek SNA, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656

Mar. 6: Kickapoo Cavern SNA, Montezuma quail slide show & calling demonstration, guide conservation scientist S. Sorola, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 210-563-2342

Mar. 6: Pedernales Falls SP, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304

Mar. 6: Richland Creek WMA, sniffin' 'em out! trained dogs demonstration, guide game warden R. Thomas, 9:30 a.m.-noon, 903-389-4514

Mar. 9: Bastrop SP, nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101

Mar. 10: Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, bird watching & nature study tour, guide park superintendent R. Ortiz, 10 a.m.-noon, 210-585-1107

Mar. 11: Lubbock Lake Landmark SHP, photography workshop focusing on close-up shots, guide park manager S. Angulo, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., 806-765-0737

Mar. 13: Bastrop SP, nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101

Mar. 13: Cedar Hill SP, Penn Farm walking tour, guide park ranger R.J. Bohls, 9 a.m.-11:15 a.m., additional fee, reservations available but not required, 214-291-3900

Mar. 13: Fairfield Lake SP, wings on the wind of spring: tour & slide show, guide park superintendent D. Walsh, before sunset-, reservations available but not required, 903-389-4514

Mar. 13: Gene Howe WMA, nature tour, guide area manager D. Dvorak, 8 a.m.-noon, 806-492-3405

Mar. 13: Honey Creek SNA, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656

Mar. 13: Kickapoo Cavern SNA, bird banding observation & birding tour, guide park superintendent D.K. Stuart, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 210-563-2342

Mar. 13: Pedernales Falls SP, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304

Mar. 14: Hill Country SNA & Running R Ranch, interpretive horseback riding tour w/ mount & lunch provided, guide park superintendent S. Heavey, 9 a.m.-noon, additional fee, 210-796-4413

Mar. 16: Bastrop SP, nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101

Mar. 17: Las Palomas WMA & other sites, birding tour of the Lower Rio Grande, guide area manager G. Waggerman, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 210-383-8982

Mar. 20: Bastrop SP, nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101

Mar. 20: Big Bend Ranch SNA, Big Bend Ranch bus tour with chuck wagon lunch, guide exhibits technician D. Alloway, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., additional fee, 915-424-3327

Mar. 20: Black Gap WMA, border birding on the Black Gap, guide Trans-Pecos naturalist B. McKinney, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 915-376-2216

Mar. 20: Honey Creek SNA, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656

Mar. 20: Kickapoo Cavern SNA, Kickapoo Cavern tour & Green Cave bat flight observation, guide park superintendent D.K. Stuart, 4 p.m.-9 p.m., 210-563-2342

March

- Mar. 20: McKinney Falls SP,** muzzle loading demonstration, guide park superintendent N. Ochs, 10 a.m.- noon, no reservations, 512-243-1643
- Mar. 20: Pedernales Falls SP,** Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304
- Mar. 23: Bastrop SP,** nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101
- Mar. 27: Bastrop SP,** nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101
- Mar. 27- Mar. 28: Black Gap WMA,** peregrine falcon tour in West Texas, guide Trans-Pecos naturalist B. McKinney, 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. first day, 7 a.m.- 3 p.m. second day, 915-376-2216
- Mar. 27- Mar. 28: Chaparral WMA,** blossoms in the brush slide show & tour, guide conservation scientist J. Rutledge, 1 p.m.- sunset first day, 8 a.m.- sunset second day, reservations available but not required, 512-676-3413
- Mar. 27: Dinosaur Valley SP,** mountain bike trail ride, guide bike shop owner G. Shannon, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., reservations available but not required, 817-897-4588
- Mar. 27: Fulton Mansion SHP,** a tale of two houses: mansion tour & boat ride to lighthouse, guide park superintendent D. Kirby, 10:30 a.m.- 4 p.m., additional fee, 512-729-0386
- Mar. 27: Gene Howe WMA,** nature tour, guide area manager D. Dvorak, 8 a.m.- noon, 806-492-3405
- Mar. 27: Honey Creek SNA,** Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656
- Mar. 27: Las Palomas WMA/Ocotillo Unit,** bird watching on the Rio Grande, guide conservation scientist T.L. Bone, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., 915-837-2051
- Mar. 27: McKinney Falls SP,** muzzle loading demonstration, guide park superintendent N. Ochs, 10 a.m.- noon, no reservations, 512-243-1643
- Mar. 27: Pedernales Falls SP,** Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304
- Mar. 27: Richland Creek WMA,** birding & banding spring migrants in the wetlands, guide conservation scientist Dr. R. Telfair, 8 a.m.- noon, 903-928-2251



Photo by Bill Reaves

April

Renew

Don't miss out on any activities this spring due to an expired Passport. Renew now at any Texas State Park, Texas Parks and Wildlife Regional Law Enforcement Office, or at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Headquarters in Austin. Or, visit Whole Earth Provision Company (Austin, Houston, Dallas) or REI (Austin). To renew by mail, send your check for \$25 per Passport, along with your current Passport number(s), to: TPWD Headquarters, License Sales, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744. Please allow four weeks for us to receive, process and return to you.

- Apr. 2: U.T. Coastal Studies Lab,** marine life in South Texas: slide show & tour, guide fisheries biologist T. Warren, 10 a.m.- 12 noon, 210-350-4490
- Apr. 3: Big Bend Ranch SNA,** Big Bend Ranch bus tour with chuck wagon lunch, guide exhibits technician D. Alloway, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., additional fee, 915-229-3613
- Apr. 3: Honey Creek SNA,** Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656
- Apr. 3: Kickapoo Cavern SNA,** Montezuma quail slide show & calling demonstration, guide conservation scientist S. Sorola, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., 210-563-2342
- Apr. 3: McKinney Falls SP,** muzzle loading demonstration, guide park superintendent N. Ochs, 10 a.m.-noon, no reservations, 512-243-1643
- Apr. 3: Pedernales Falls SP,** Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304
- Apr. 3: Richland Creek WMA,** sniffin' 'em out! trained dogs demonstration, guide game warden R. Thomas, 9:30 a.m.-noon, 903-389-4514
- Apr. 6: Bastrop SP,** nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101
- Apr. 7: Lake Livingston SP,** fishing seminar, guide biologist M. Howell, 8 a.m.- noon, no reservations, 409-365-2201
- Apr. 7: Las Palomas WMA & Lower Rio Grande NWR,** wildlife corridor slide show and tour, guide area manager G. Waggenerman, 8 a.m.- noon, 210-383-8982
- Apr. 10: Bastrop SP,** nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101
- Apr. 10: Black Gap WMA,** wildflower & cactus tour in West Texas, guide Trans-Pecos naturalist B. McKinney, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., 915-376-2216
- Apr. 10: Candy Cain Abshier WMA,** neotropical migrant birding tour, guide area manager T. Turney, 7 a.m.- 1 p.m., 409-736-2551
- Apr. 10: Cedar Hill SP,** Penn Farm walking tour, guide park ranger R.J. Bohls, 9 a.m.-11:15 a.m., additional fee, reservations available but not required, 214-291-3900
- Apr. 10: Fairfield Lake SP,** wings on the wind of spring: tour & slide show, guide park superintendent D. Walsh, before sunset-, reservations available but not required, 903-389-4514
- Apr. 10- Apr. 11: Fort Richardson SHP,** a day at the fort, guide clerk of Company I, 6th U.S. Cavalry G. Ameila, 8 a.m.- noon, additional fee, 817-567-3506
- Apr. 10: Honey Creek SNA,** Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656
- Apr. 10: Kickapoo Cavern SNA,** flora of Kickapoo Cavern SNA, guide park superintendent D.K. Stuart, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., 210-563-2342
- Apr. 10: McKinney Falls SP,** muzzle loading demonstration, guide park superintendent N. Ochs, 10 a.m.- noon, no reservations, 512-243-1643
- Apr. 10: Pedernales Falls SP,** Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304
- Apr. 10: Washington-on-the-Brazos SHP,** wildflowers walking tour, guide Texas A&M biology professor Dr. H. Wilson, 1 p.m.- 2 p.m., reservations available but not required, 409-878-2214
- Apr. 11: Hill Country SNA & Running R Ranch,** interpretive horseback riding tour w/ mount & lunch provided, guide park superintendent S. Heavey, 9 a.m.- noon, additional fee, 210-796-4413
- Apr. 13: Bastrop SP,** nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101
- Apr. 14: Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP,** bird watching & nature study tour, guide park superintendent R. Ortiz, 10 a.m.- noon, 210-585-1107
- Apr. 16: Barton Warnock Environmental Ed. Center,** archeology of the Big Bend slide show & tour, guide exhibits technician D. Alloway, 10 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., reservations available but not required, 915-424-3327
- Apr. 17: Bastrop SP,** nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101

Calendar continued on page 6

Site Location Index

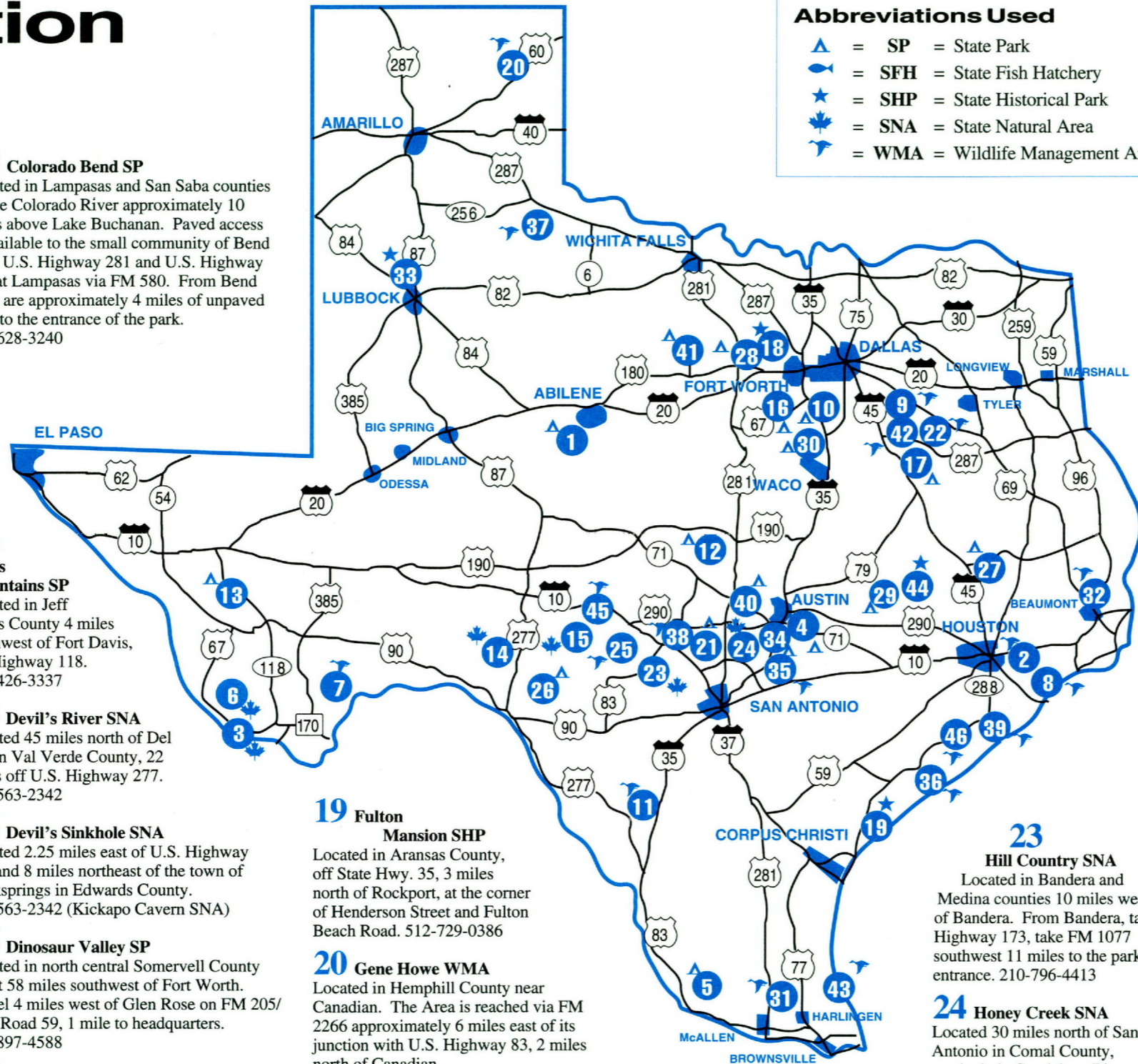
- 1 Abilene SP**
Located in Taylor County, 16 miles southwest of Abilene off FM 89. 915-572-3204
- 2 Atkinson Island WMA**
Located between Chambers and Harris Counties on the Houston Ship Channel, off Morgan's Point. Accessed by boat only from Morgan's Point and Crauley's Bait Camp. (The Harris County side of the island is the only portion owned by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.) 409-736-2551
- 3 Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center**
Located in Lajitas. Part of the Big Bend Ranch SNA. 915-424-3327
- 4 Bastrop SP**
Located in Bastrop County, 32 miles east of Austin and 1 mile east of Bastrop on Hwy. 21. 512-321-2101
- 5 Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP**
Located in southwestern Hidalgo County near Mission. Take U.S. Highway 83 to Mission, continue west to the exit on Loop 374, then south on FM 2062 to the park. 210-585-1107
- 6 Big Bend Ranch SNA**
Located north of Lajitas on Highway 170 in Brewster and Presidio counties. 915-424-3327
- 7 Black Gap WMA**
Located in Brewster County, 58 miles south of Marathon. Drive 40 miles south on Highway 385 to FM 2627, then east on FM 2627 for 18 miles.
- 8 Candy Cain Abshier WMA**
Located in Smith Point in the far southwesternmost part of Chambers County. From Interstate 10, take Highway 61 south to FM 562, then take FM 562 south to Smith Point. 409-736-2551
- 9 Cedar Creek Islands WMA/ Telfair Is. Unit**
Passport tour to start from Public Boat Ramp on FM 85 causeway between Seven Points and Gun Barrel City. 903-566-1626
- 10 Cedar Hill SP**
Located in the southwest corner of Dallas County, approximately 15 miles southwest of Dallas. The park is 2 miles west of Cedar Hill and is accessible via FM 1382. 214-291-3900
- 11 Chaparral WMA**
Located in LaSalle and Dimmit counties, 8 miles west of Artesia Wells on FM 133.

- 12 Colorado Bend SP**
Located in Lampasas and San Saba counties on the Colorado River approximately 10 miles above Lake Buchanan. Paved access is available to the small community of Bend from U.S. Highway 281 and U.S. Highway 183 at Lampasas via FM 580. From Bend there are approximately 4 miles of unpaved road to the entrance of the park. 915-628-3240
- 13 Davis Mountains SP**
Located in Jeff Davis County 4 miles northwest of Fort Davis, via Highway 118. 915-426-3337
- 14 Devil's River SNA**
Located 45 miles north of Del Rio in Val Verde County, 22 miles off U.S. Highway 277. 210-563-2342
- 15 Devil's Sinkhole SNA**
Located 2.25 miles east of U.S. Highway 377 and 8 miles northeast of the town of Rocksprings in Edwards County. 210-563-2342 (Kickapoo Cavern SNA)
- 16 Dinosaur Valley SP**
Located in north central Somervell County about 58 miles southwest of Fort Worth. Travel 4 miles west of Glen Rose on FM 205/ Park Road 59, 1 mile to headquarters. 817-897-4588
- 17 Fairfield Lake SP**
Located in eastern Freestone County near Fairfield. From IH-45 take Highway 84 east to FM 488 north to FM 2570 east to Park Road 64. 903-389-4514
- 18 Fort Richardson SHP**
Located in central Jack County near Jacksboro. The park entrance is accessible from U.S. Highway 281. From Jacksboro travel 1 mile south on U.S. 281 to the park entrance. 817-567-3506

- 19 Fulton Mansion SHP**
Located in Aransas County, off State Hwy. 35, 3 miles north of Rockport, at the corner of Henderson Street and Fulton Beach Road. 512-729-0386
- 20 Gene Howe WMA**
Located in Hemphill County near Canadian. The Area is reached via FM 2266 approximately 6 miles east of its junction with U.S. Highway 83, 2 miles north of Canadian.
- 21 Guadalupe River SP**
Located 30 miles north of San Antonio, 13 mi. east of Boerne on Hwy 46 or 8 mi. west of the intersection of Hwy 281 and Hwy 46. 210-438-2656
- 22 Gus Engeling WMA**
Located in Anderson County, 21 miles northwest of Palestine or 38 miles southeast of Corsicana on U.S. Highway 287. 903-928-2251

Abbreviations Used

- ▲ = SP = State Park
- ♣ = SFH = State Fish Hatchery
- ★ = SHP = State Historical Park
- ✿ = SNA = State Natural Area
- 🦋 = WMA = Wildlife Management Area



- 23 Hill Country SNA**
Located in Bandera and Medina counties 10 miles west of Bandera. From Bandera, take Highway 173, take FM 1077 southwest 11 miles to the park entrance. 210-796-4413
- 24 Honey Creek SNA**
Located 30 miles north of San Antonio in Comal County, reached via Guadalupe River State Park from Park Road 31 off Highway 46. Thirteen miles east of Boerne or 8 miles west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 281 and State Highway 46. The park entrance is 3 miles off Highway 46 on Park Road 31. 210-438-2656
- 25 Kerr WMA**
Located on the scenic headwaters of the North Fork of the Guadalupe River in Kerr County, 14 miles west of Hunt accessed off FM 1340.

- 26 Kickapoo Cavern SP**
Located in Edwards and Kinney counties northwest of Uvalde, 23 miles north of Brackettville. From U.S. Highway 90 take FM 674 north for 23 miles to park entrance. 210-563-2342
- 27 Lake Livingston SP**
Located in Polk County, 75 miles north of Houston. Take FM 1988 out of Livingston, then FM 3126 to the park. 409-365-2201
- 28 Lake Mineral Wells SP**
Three miles east of Mineral Wells on U.S. Hwy. 180 and 14 miles west of Weatherford on U.S. Hwy. 180. 817-328-1171
- 29 Lake Somerville SP/Nails Creek Unit**
Located in Burleson County northwest of Brenham. Nails Creek Unit is located on FM 180, 15 miles off U.S. 290. 409-289-2392
- 30 Lake Whitney SP**
Three miles west of Whitney on FM 1244. From IH-35 take the Hillsboro exit. From Hillsboro take Hwy 22 west to Whitney and follow the highway signs to the park. 817-694-3793
- 31 Las Palomas WMA/Lower Rio Grande Valley Units**
Eight tracts located in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties. 210-383-8982
- 32 Lower Neches WMA/ Bessie Heights Unit**
Located in Orange County, approximately 6 miles west of Bridge City and 2 miles north of Neches River in Bessie Heights Oil Field. Accessible by watercraft only. 409-736-2551
- 33 Lubbock Lake Landmark SHP**
Located on the northwest edge of the City of Lubbock near the intersection of Loop 289 and Clovis Road (U.S. 84). 806-741-0306
- 34 McKinney Falls SP**
Located in Travis County, 13 miles southeast of the State Capitol. Take U.S. Hwy. 183 south to Scenic Loop Rd., turn unto Scenic Loop and go 2 miles to the park entrance. 512-243-1643
- 35 M.O. Neaslon WMA**
Located 8 miles south of Luling on State Highway 80. 210-875-9230 or 210-424-3407
- 36 Mad Island WMA**
Located in Matagorda County near the city of Matagorda. The check station is accessed via State Highway 35 approximately 12 miles west of Bay City to FM 1095 1 mile to an unpaved road, turn left and follow signs to check station.
- 37 Matador WMA**
Located in Cottle County, 7 miles north of Paducah at the end of FM 3256, 2.5 miles west of Highway 83.

- 38 Old Tunnel WMA**
Located in Kendall County, 14 miles south of Fredricksburg. From Fredricksburg take US 290 4 miles to FM 1376 (KOA). Turn right and proceed approximately 5 miles, turn right, drive approximately 6 miles to T, turn left and proceed about 3 1/2 miles to the WMA (on left side of the road). 210-868-4186
- 39 Peach Point WMA**
Located in Brazoria County, 10 miles east of Brazoria or 8 miles west of Freeport on Hwy. 36, then 2 miles south to check station.
- 40 Pedernales Falls SP**
Located in eastern Blanco County near Johnson City. The park entrance is 9 miles east of Johnson City on FM Road 2766, or by traveling west of Austin for 32 miles on U.S. Highway 290, then north on FM 3232 for 7 miles. 210-868-7304
- 41 Possum Kingdom SP**
Located in Palo Pinto County west of Fort Worth near Caddo. Take U.S. Highway 180 to Caddo then 17 miles north on Park Road 33. 817-549-1803
- 42 Richland Creek WMA**
Located in Freestone and Navarro counties, on U.S. Highway 287, 28 miles east of Corsicana, 31 miles northwest of Palestine.
- 43 U.T. Coastal Studies Lab**
Located in Isla Blanca Park on South Padre Island. 210-350-4490 (Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. field office)
- 44 Washington-on-the-Brazos SHP**
Located 21 miles northeast of Brenham. From Brenham, take Hwy. 105 to FM 912. 409-878-2214
- 45 Walter Buck WMA**
Located on the South Fork of the Llano River in Kimble County, 5 miles southwest of Junction or 3 miles south of the Junction city limits sign on State Highway 377 to the WMA entrance. 915-446-3617
- 46 Welder Flats Coastal Preserve**
Located in Calhoun County at the junction of the Victoria Barge Canal with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Boat access only. 512-729-2315

The Passport


The Passport is published quarterly for Texas Conservation Passport holders by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For information on purchasing or renewing a Texas Conservation Passport, call 1-800-792-1112, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.
Jim Cox, Editor Linda Wells, Designer


For address changes, please send your mailing label and your new address to:
Texas Conservation Passport
c/o Marketing and Tourism
4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744


April


Continued from page 3


Apr. 17: Big Bend Ranch SNA,  Big Bend Ranch bus tour with chuck wagon lunch, guide exhibits technician D. Alloway, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., additional fee, 915-424-3327


Apr. 17: Black Gap WMA,  wildflower & cactus tour in West Texas, guide Trans-Pecos naturalist B. McKinney, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 915-376-2216


Apr. 17: Candy Cain Abshier WMA,  neotropical migrant birding tour, guide area manager T. Turney, 7 a.m.- 1 p.m., 409-736-2551


Apr. 17: Dinosaur Valley SP,  horseback trail ride, guide park ranger G. Lujan, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., no reservations, 817-897-4588


Apr. 17: Guadalupe Delta WMA,  spring migration birding tour, guide wildlife biologist Dr. B. Ortego, 8 a.m.- dark, 512-729-2315


Apr. 17: Gus Engelling WMA,  Sphagnum Peat Bog tour, guide Sul Ross State University professor Dr. C. Rowell, 8:30 a.m.-noon, 903-928-2251


Apr. 17: Hill Country SNA,  interpretive horseback riding tour with your own horse, guide park superintendent S. Heavey, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., 210-796-4413


Apr. 17: Honey Creek SNA,  Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656


Apr. 17: Kickapoo Cavern SNA,  Kickapoo Cavern tour & Green Cave bat flight observation, guide park superintendent D.K. Stuart, 4 p.m.- 9 p.m., 210-563-2342


Apr. 17: Matador WMA,  nature tour, guide area manager D. Dvorak, 8 a.m.- noon, 806-492-3405


Apr. 17: Pedernales Falls SP,  Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304


Apr. 17: Richland Creek WMA,  slithers & such: hands-on program on snakes & other reptiles, guide herpetologist D. Sprout, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., 903-389-4514


Apr. 18: Black Gap WMA,  border birding on the Black Gap, guide Trans-Pecos naturalist B. McKinney, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., 915-376-2216


Apr. 20: Bastrop SP,  nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101


Apr. 21: Las Palomas WMA & other sites,  birding tour of the Lower Rio Grande, guide area manager G. Waggener, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., 210-383-8982


Apr. 24: Atkinson's Island WMA,  walking tour, guide area manager J. Sutherland, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., 409-736-2551


Apr. 24: Bastrop SP,  nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101


Apr. 24: Guadalupe River SP,  Earth Day restoration ecology, guide conservation scientist M. Wagner, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m., no reservations, 210-438-2656


Apr. 24: Honey Creek SNA,  Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis & wildlife ecologist A. Perry, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656


Apr. 24: Kickapoo Cavern SNA,  bird banding observation & birding tour, guide park superintendent D.K. Stuart, 9 a.m.-, 210-563-2342


Apr. 24: Lake Mineral Wells SP,  plant identification & birding tour, guide wildlife biologist J. Dillard, 8 a.m.- noon, 817-328-1171


Apr. 24: Las Palomas WMA/Ocotillo Unit,  bird watching on the Rio Grande, guide conservation scientist T.L. Bone, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., 915-837-2051


Apr. 24: Mad Island WMA,  spring migration birding tour, guide wildlife biologist Dr. B. Ortego, 8 a.m.- dark, 512-729-2315


Apr. 24: Matador WMA,  nature tour, guide area manager D. Dvorak, 8 a.m.- noon, 806-492-3405

Apr. 24: Pedernales Falls SP,  Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304

Apr. 24: Washington-on-the-Brazos,  history & legend of wildflowers, guide Natl. Wildflower Research Center botanist F. Oxley, 10 a.m.- 11 a.m.; 2 p.m. - 3 p.m., reservations available but not required, 409-878-2214

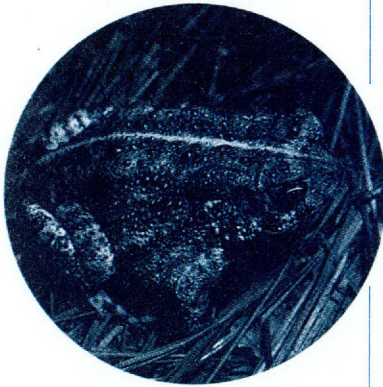
Apr. 25: Honey Creek SNA,  geology of Honey Creek & Edwards Plateau, guide geologist & U.T. research scientist C. Caran, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., no reservations, 210-438-2656

Apr. 25: Lake Whitney SP,  native bird watching, guide park ranger B. Kirkpatrick, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., 817-694-3793

Apr. 27: Bastrop SP,  nocturnal sojourn into the life of the Houston toad, guide conservation scientist A. Price, sunset-, 512-321-2101

■ Mating secrets of the Houston toad are revealed on Conservation Passport tours at Bastrop State Park.

Photo by Glen Mills



**Texas
Wildlife
Viewing
Guide**
Helps Plan
Outdoor
Excursions

We hope your quarterly issue of *The Passport* has helped you enjoy and better appreciate the Texas outdoors. To expand your horizons even further, we'd like to remind you that the "Texas Wildlife Viewing Guide" is now available. This 160-page color booklet lists 142 of the best sites in the state for watching wildlife, and it offers Conservation Passport holders the opportunity to schedule additional stops on the way to and from Passport outings.

Priced at \$8.00, the guides can be purchased at selected state parks and outdoor recreation stores. It also is available from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744 or by calling the department's toll-free number, 1-800-792-1112. The total price is \$9.50 per Guide

when ordered through the mail.

Watchable Wildlife is a nationwide program made possible through cooperation by state and federal conservation agencies, private foundations and conservation organizations. The Texas guide tells readers how to reach each site, which animals are seen most often and species that are rare, the best times of year to see them and information about wildlife habitats.


Arrangements to visit a few of the privately owned sites must be made through the owner whose number is provided, but most are readily accessible to the public. Entry to some of the sites is free, but others require at least a nominal fee. Conservation Passport holders, of course, are admitted free to the 70 sites owned or managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.





May


Tours by Request


 **May 1: Big Bend Ranch SNA**, Big Bend Ranch bus tour with chuck wagon lunch, guide exhibits technician D. Alloway, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., additional fee, 915-229-3613


 **May 1: Black Gap WMA**, bird banding in the Chihuahuan Desert, guide biology field worker B. McKinney, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., 915-376-2216


 **May 1: Cedar Hill SP at Joe Pool Marina**, fishing clinic, guide fishing guide R. Stewart, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., 214-291-3900

 **May 1: Honey Creek SNA**, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656


 **May 1: Kickapoo Cavern SNA**, Kickapoo Cavern tour & Green Cave bat flight observation, guide park superintendent D.K. Stuart, 4 p.m.- 9 p.m., 210-563-2342


 **May 1: McKinney Falls SP**, muzzle loading demonstration, guide park superintendent N. Ochs, 10 a.m.- noon, no reservations, 512-243-1643


 **May 1: Peach Point WMA**, spring migration birding tour, guide wildlife biologist Dr. B. Ortego, 8 a.m.- dark, 512-729-2315


 **May 1: Pedernales Falls SP**, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304

 **May 5: Lake Livingston SP**, fishing seminar, guide biologist M. Howell, 8 a.m.- noon, no reservations, 409-365-2201

 **May 7: Kerr WMA**, birding tour focusing on endangered species, guide wildlife technician T. Schumann, 8 a.m.- noon, 210-238-4483


 **May 7: U.T. Coastal Studies Lab**, marine life in South Texas: slide show & tour, guide fisheries biologist T. Warren, 10 a.m.- noon, 210-350-4490


 **May 8: Cedar Creek Islands WMA/Telfair Is.** Unit, nesting waterbird colony tour, guide wildlife biologist K.M. Fleming, 8 a.m.- 12 noon, 903-566-1626


 **May 8: Dinosaur Valley SP**, mountain bike trail ride, guide bike shop owner G. Shannon, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., reservations available but not required, 817-897-4588


 **May 8: Fairfield Lake SP**, wings on the summer thermals: tour & slide show, guide park superintendent D. Walsh, before sunset, reservations available but not required, 903-389-4514


 **May 8: Gene Howe WMA**, nature tour, guide area manager D. Dvorak, 8 a.m.- noon, 806-492-3405


 **May 8: Honey Creek SNA**, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656


 **May 8: Honey Creek SNA**, tour on insects focusing on butterflies, guide geology & entomology curator Dr. C. Durden, 1:30 p.m.- 4 p.m., no reservations, 210-438-2656

 **May 8: Kickapoo Cavern SNA**, bird banding observation & birding tour, guide park superintendent D.K. Stuart, 9 a.m.-, 210-563-2342


 **May 8: Lake Mineral Wells SP**, plant identification & birding tour, guide wildlife biologist J. Dillard, 8 a.m.- noon, 817-328-1171


 **May 8: McKinney Falls SP**, muzzle loading demonstration, guide park superintendent N. Ochs, 10 a.m.- noon, no reservations, 512-243-1643


 **May 8: Pedernales Falls SP**, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304


 **May 9: Hill Country SNA & Running R Ranch**, interpretive horseback riding tour w/ mount & lunch provided, guide park superintendent S. Heavey, 9 a.m.- noon, additional fee, 210-796-4413


 **May 15: Big Bend Ranch SNA**, Big Bend Ranch bus tour with chuck wagon lunch, guide exhibits technician D. Alloway, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., additional fee, 915-424-3327


 **May 15: Cedar Creek Islands WMA/Telfair Is.** Unit, nesting waterbird colony tour, guide wildlife biologist K.M. Fleming, 8 a.m.- 12 noon, 903-566-1626


 **May 15: Honey Creek SNA**, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656


 **May 15: Kickapoo Cavern SNA**, Kickapoo Cavern tour & Green Cave bat flight observation, guide park superintendent D.K. Stuart, 4 p.m.- 9 p.m., 210-563-2342


 **May 15: M.O. Neasloney WMA**, a walk on the wild side slide show & tour, guide fish & wildlife technician T.A. Lawyer, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., 210-875-9230 or 210-424-3407


 **May 15: Old Tunnel WMA**, bat emergence tour, guide biologist R. Welch, 1hr before sunset - 1hr after sunset, 210-868-4186


 **May 15: Pedernales Falls SP**, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304


 **May 22: Cedar Creek Islands WMA/Telfair Is.** Unit, nesting waterbird colony tour, guide wildlife biologist K.M. Fleming, 8 a.m.- noon, 903-566-1626


 **May 22: Cedar Hill SP**, Penn Farm walking tour, guide park ranger R.J. Bohls, 9 a.m.-11:15 a.m., additional fee, reservations available but not required, 214-291-3900


 **May 22- May 23: Chaparral WMA**, birding in the brush slide show & tour, guide conservation scientist J. Rutledge, 9 a.m.- sunset, reservations available but not required, 512-676-3413


 **May 22: Honey Creek SNA**, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656


 **May 22: Kickapoo Cavern SNA**, bird banding observation & birding tour, guide park superintendent D.K. Stuart, 9 a.m.-, 210-563-2342


 **May 22: Matador WMA**, nature tour, guide area manager D. Dvorak, 8 a.m.- noon, 806-492-3405


 **May 22: Pedernales Falls SP**, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304


 **May 23: Abilene SP**, pre-season pool day, guide pool manager J. Harden, 1 p.m.- 6 p.m., no reservations, 915-572-3204



 **May 23- May 24: Black Gap WMA**, desert bird seminar, guide Trans-Pecos naturalist B. McKinney, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 915-376-2216

 **May 29: Guadalupe River SP**, hydrographics: flood patterns/ effects of the Guadalupe River, guide Abyss Dives training & research specialist A. Furlow, 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m., no reservations, 210-438-2656

 **May 29: Honey Creek SNA**, Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem tour, guide naturalist P. Solis, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m., no reservations, 512-438-2656

 **May 29: Pedernales Falls SP**, Twin Falls nature trail walk, guide park superintendent B. McDaniel, 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., no reservations, 210-868-7304

 **May 29- May 30: Walter Buck WMA**, hike or mountain bike bird watching weekend, self-guided, 30 minutes before dawn - 30 minutes after sunset, 915-446-3994

 **May 29: Washington-on-the-Brazos SHP**, aquatic ecology slide show & demonstration, guide fisheries biologist J. Henson, 10 a.m.-, reservations available but not required, 409-878-2214 

Colorado Bend SP, wildlife viewing at baited area, guide park superintendent R. Basse, predawn to noon or until dusk if others not waiting to use the blinds, additional fee, reservations available but not required, 915-628-3240

Devil's River SNA, guided tour of archaeological pictograph sites and natural sites upon request, Fridays-Sundays, groups encouraged, bunkhouse lodging for 10 people and kitchen available, 210-395-2133

Kickapoo Cavern SNA, bird watching and nature tours upon request, primitive cavern tour by special arrangement, guide park superintendent D.K. Stuart, groups encouraged, bunkhouse lodging for 12 people and kitchen available, please make reservations at least two weeks in advance, 210-563-2342

Lake Somerville SP/ Nails Creek Unit, guided nature study of the Somerville Trailway and the Flag Pond area, guide park superintendent Brent Leisure, four hour tour, 409-289-2392
Pedernales Falls SP, park management tour, guide park superintendent Bill McDaniel, weekdays by reservation, 210-868-7304 

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744

The Passport

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Self-Guided *Tours* with the Texas Conservation Passport



Photo by Bill Reeves

- ◆ Dates closed to visitation must be observed.
- ◆ Unless otherwise noted, these areas are open every day of the week for day-use only, from daylight to sunset.
- ◆ "No facilities" indicates that the site has no recreational facilities, potable water or restroom facilities. Some sites noted "no facilities" have an office with a restroom, but those offices are seldom staffed because the staff is out on the site.
- ◆ It is strongly recommended that you call before traveling to the area.

Abbreviations Used

SP = State Park
SNA = State Natural Area
WMA = Wildlife
Management Area

Atkinson Island WMA -
Unvegetated beach areas. No
facilities. 409-736-2551

Big Bend Ranch SNA -
Conservation Passport required
north of Highway 170 where
hiking and backpacking are
available. South of Highway 170,
either the Conservation Passport
or the daily entrance fee is
acceptable. For information call
the Barton Warnock Environmen-
tal Education Center,
915-424-3327.

**Candy Cain Abshier
WMA** - Area primarily for bird
watching and nature study. No
facilities. 409-736-2551

**Davis Mountains SP
Primitive Area** - All visitors
must register at the Davis
Mountains SP headquarters and
sign a primitive area use
agreement. 915-426-3337

Gus Engeling WMA -
Two interpretive walking nature
trails. One self-guided 10-mile
driving tour is open in March
and April to view flowering
dogwoods; one driving wildlife
demonstration tour is open in
spring and summer.
903-928-2251

**Las Palomas WMA/
Lower Rio Grande Valley
Units** - Units of Las Palomas
open for activities September 1 -
April 30 are: Adams, Anacua,
Baird, Carricitos, Champion,
Longoria (west side only), Penitas
and Taormina. No facilities.
210-383-8982

**Las Palomas WMA/
Ocotillo Unit** - No facilities.
915-837-2051

**Lower Neches WMA/
Bessie Heights Unit** - Accessible
by boat only. No facilities.
409-736-2551

Walter Buck WMA -
Activities coordinated through
South Llano River SP.
915-446-3617

**Welder Flats Coastal
Preserve** - This area is entirely
submerged land, so access is by
boat. ALL shoreline area is
privately owned and is NOT part
of the preserve. Please do not
trespass on private land and do
not disturb the whooping cranes.

